

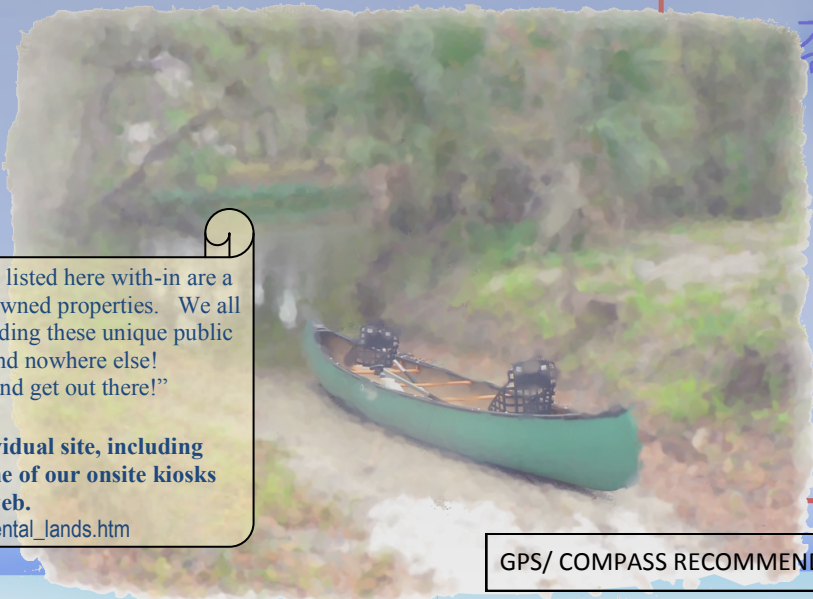
Destinations for paddlers, along the North Fork St. Lucie River

NORTH TO SOUTH	 Canoe Dock	 Canoe Landing	 Canoe Launch	 Hiking	 Fishing	 Picnic Area	 Wildlife Obs.	 Rest-rooms	 Parking	 Historic Interest
Ten Mile Creek Natural Area		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Gordy Road Spillway					X		X		X	
George Lestrangle Natural Area	X			X	X	X	X		X	X
Sweetwater Hammock Natural Area		X		X		X	X		X	
White City Park	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	
Capt. Hammond's Hammock Natural Area	X			X	X	X	X			
Idabelle Island	X					X	X			
Oxbow Eco-Center	X			X		X	X	X	X	
Citrus Hammock Natural Area	X					X	X			
River Place Park	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	
River Park Marina	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
St. Lucie River State Park	X			X			X		X	
Veteran's Park at Rivergate	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	
Mud Cove Wood Stork Rookery							X			
Spruce Bluff Nat. Area		X		X			X		X	X



Paddler's please take notice that the sites listed here with-in are a collaboration of County, City, and State owned properties. We all are dedicated to serving you, while providing these unique public access opportunities — truly found nowhere else!  
“Support your local public lands and get out there!”

For more information on each individual site, including historical information, please visit one of our onsite kiosks or visit us on the web.  
[www.stlucieco.gov/erd/environmental\\_lands.htm](http://www.stlucieco.gov/erd/environmental_lands.htm)



GPS/ COMPASS RECOMMENDED!



**MANATEE ZONES** are posted throughout the North Fork and generally follow the original river course prior to being channelized. These areas are great routes for paddlers, as they provide a quiet alternative to motorized boat traffic and often enhance opportunities for wildlife viewing. Most areas outside the marked channel are no wake zones.



**CANOE DOCKS** are for paddlers only! These docks are available at several County and State paddling destinations along the river. Enjoy this unique access to picnic areas and a few hiking opportunities. Launch points are recommended at any of the three local boat



About the North Fork

In the 1880s, the River was freshwater and flowed into the Indian River Lagoon. The headwaters are found at Ten and Five Creeks, which converge and travel south. Historically, the original headwaters originated many miles up Ten Mile Creek, and during high water, were actually connected to the St. Johns River.

In 1892, the St. Lucie inlet was dug, giving the River direct access to the Atlantic Ocean, changing the river to an estuary. Look for the northern extent of the mangroves! This is great indicator of the estuarine / freshwater extents.

In 1905, the FL State Legislature created the Board of Drainage Commissioners to help deal with flooding issues. The River was channelized, and spoil from the dredging was piled on the banks, thus altering the floodplain. The Everglades Drainage District constructed the St. Lucie Canal (C44), which drains Lake Okeechobee, from 1916 to 1928. The canals created to drain the land into the River have dramatically altered the original watershed.

In 1972, part of the North Fork (Midway Rd South to the Estuary) was designated as an Aquatic Preserve due to it's high biological value. Supporting temperate and subtropical aquatic species, it is important to many species of fish such as snook, snapper, and the opossum pipefish that require both fresh and estuarine water to complete their life cycles.

Today, efforts are underway to restore sections of the River back to it's natural and historic course and vegetative communities. The Aquatic Preserve encumbers the majority of the property along the river protecting it as you see it for future generations. The future preserve boundary may soon reach as far north as the Gordy Rd. Spillway. Practices to store and filter storm-water runoff before it reaches the estuary and Indian River Lagoon have also been enacted. With proper stewardship, residents and visitors alike can help to preserve this area's greatest natural treasure.

Paddling Tips

- Be aware of water levels, currents and weather conditions. Take caution in summer when thunderstorms are frequent; try to take shelter in advance of bad weather. **KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!**
- Wear a Personal Floatation Device (PFD). Florida law requires a Coast Guard approved, readily accessible and wearable PFD with whistle for each occupant. PFDs must be worn by all occupants under age 6.
- Bring plenty of food and water. Drinks should be in non-breakable containers and food and gear in water-tight containers. At least 1/2 gallon of water per person is recommended for day trips.
- Wear sunscreen, protective clothing and footwear and a hat. Try to minimize the risk of sun exposure and dehydration by drinking water before getting thirsty, and regularly throughout the day. Apply sunscreen liberally and reapply as necessary, even on cloudy days.
- Paddle in a group or with a buddy if possible. If paddling solo, file a float plan by letting someone know where you're going and when you'll be returning.
- Watch for motorboats. Stay to the right and turn the bow into the wake. Respect anglers.
- In case of emergency, dial 911.
- Caution of slippery/uneven surfaces at launches, canoe docks, and trail surfaces. Beware of submerged trees and other objects.
- While paddling/hiking you may encounter wildlife indigenous to the area. This may include an alligator or poisonous snake. Please view wildlife from a safe distance.

Leave No Trace Ethics

- Don't litter or pollute the water with trash or other wastes (try to pick up trash when you see it).
- Be respectful of wildlife. Do not approach, harass or attempt to feed animals.
- Do not access private land without permission.
- Be considerate of other visitors.
- Leave what you discover, take only memories!

North Fork St. Lucie River Paddling Guide



St. Lucie County  
Environmental Resources  
Department  
2300 Virginia Avenue  
Ft. Pierce, FL 34982

772-462-2525

[www.stlucieco.gov/erd/environmental\\_lands.htm](http://www.stlucieco.gov/erd/environmental_lands.htm)

270° W



# NORTH FORK ST. LUCIE RIVER PADDLING GUIDE



GREAT EGRET



WOOD STORK



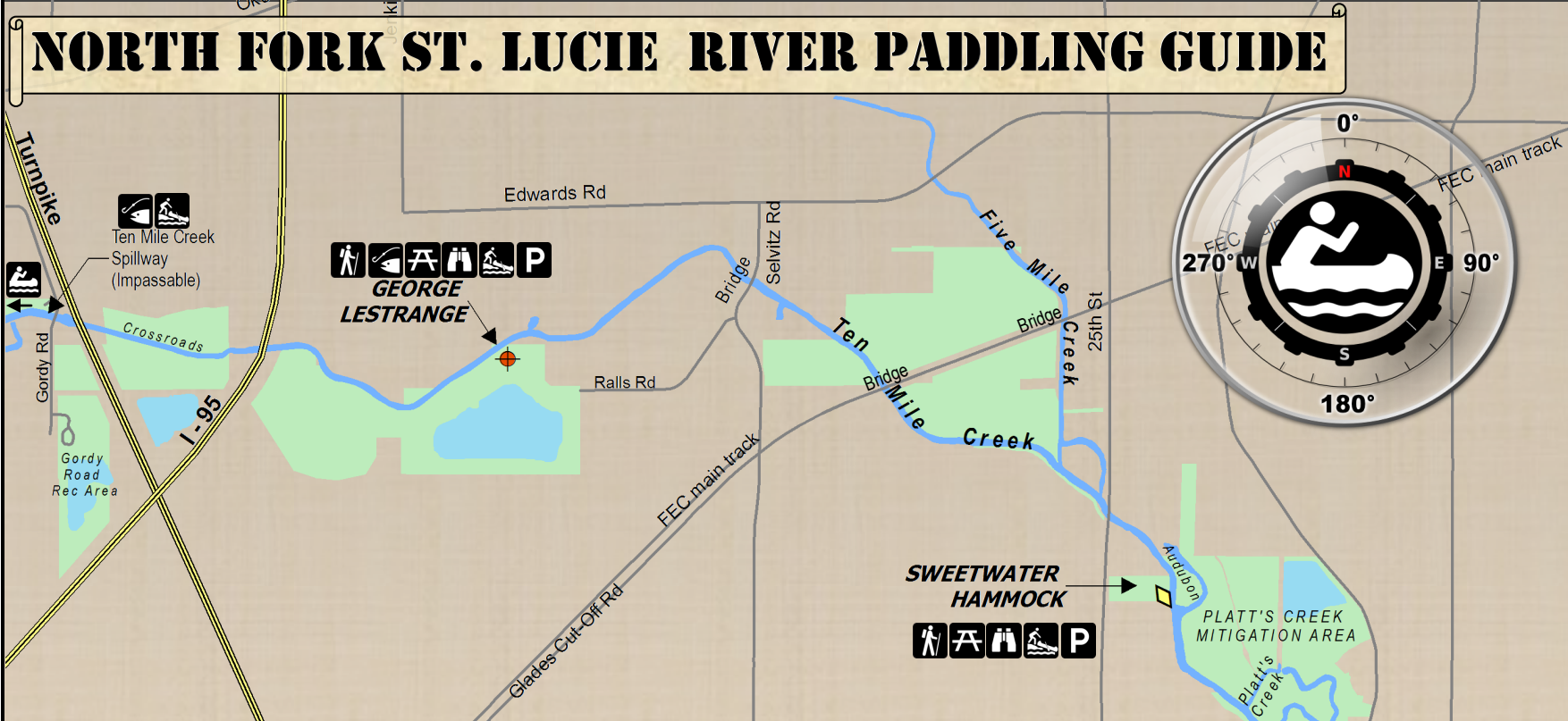
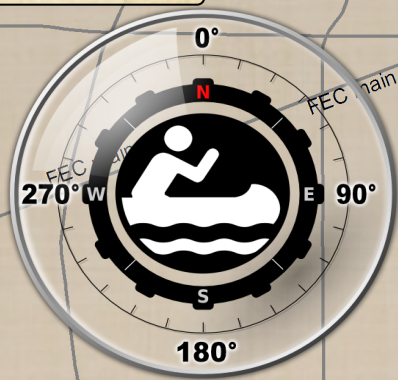
TRI-COLOR HERON



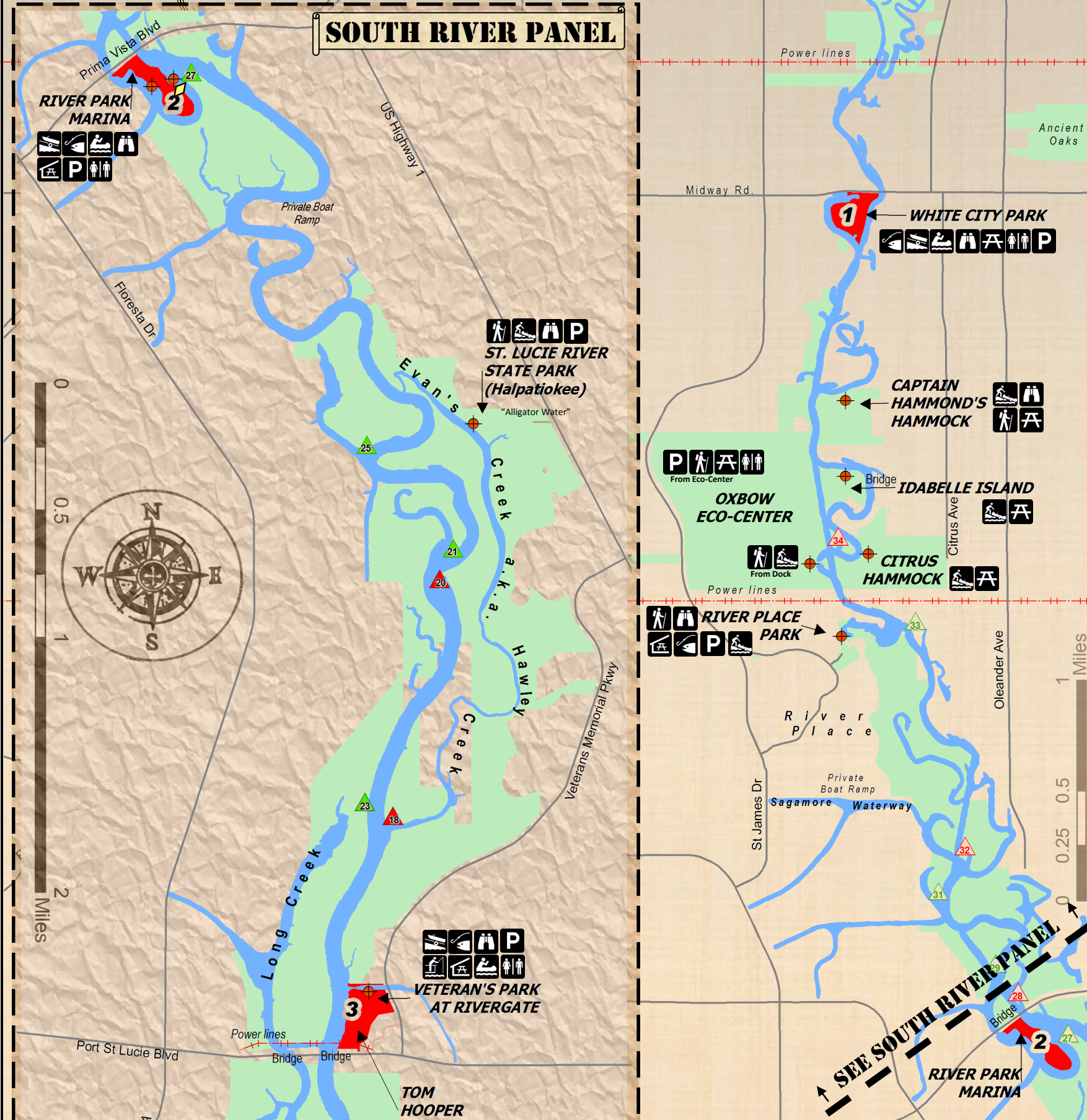
ROSEATE SPOONBILL



WHITE IBIS



## SOUTH RIVER PANEL



CANOE LANDINGS	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
Sweetwater Hammock	27° 20'49.81" N	80° 23'29.22" W
Spruce Bluff	27° 15'36.90" N	80° 19'52.50" W

No Docks Here! Land Canoes/Kayaks on Bank!

	LAUNCH POINTS / BOAT RAMPS	ADDRESS	MANAGER
1	White City Park	2081 W. Midway Rd. Fort Pierce, FL 34981	SLC Parks & Rec.
2	River Park Marina *	500 East Prima Vista Blvd. Port St Lucie, FL 34983	SLC Parks & Rec.
3	Veteran's Park at Rivergate	2200 SE Veteran's Memorial Pkwy. Port St. Lucie, FL 34952	PSL Parks & Rec.

\* Canoe/Kayak Rentals Available

CANOE DOCKS	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
George Lestrangle	27° 23'37.72" N	80° 22'57.06" W
White City Park	27° 22'17.20" N	80° 20'39.80" W
Capt. Hammond's Hammock	27° 21'44.00" N	80° 20'44.60" W
Idabelle Island	27° 21'20.10" N	80° 20'36.10" W
Oxbow Eco-Center	27° 21'09.00" N	80° 20'48.20" W
Citrus Hammock	27° 21'09.70" N	80° 20'38.80" W
River Place Park	27° 20'52.40" N	80° 20'35.80" W
River Park Marina	27° 19'23.80" N	80° 19'57.80" W
St. Lucie River SP (Halpatiokee)	27° 18'19.60" N	80° 18'52.10" W
Veteran's Park at Rivergate	27° 16'31.20" N	80° 19'12.20" W

Destinations Only! Refer to Launch Key for Access Points!

Note: There are two other launch points available for the hard-core paddler; both Sweetwater Hammock and River Place Park have areas to launch from. Each launch is roughly 900 ft down the trail from the parking area. Those wishing to visit the Mud Cove rookeries can launch at the C-24 canal on Southbend Blvd.